

To constantly improve our state of readiness, we have investigated the emergency communication capability of civil defense. Although we have always been proud of our facilities in this field, we in State government felt that a further expansion was needed. It was with this in mind that some time ago approval was granted for a statewide radio teletype network. Many of you already have these facilities in operation in your counties, and as I understand, more installations are planned. The State headquarters facilities are already operable. This new network will serve the State well in any natural or wartime disaster that might occur.

One last word of review. As I am sure you already know, several additional persons have been added to the State staff. These are thoroughly competent individuals screened by merit system procedures and then appointed by General Van Brunt. I am certain that with these new people valuable additional assistance is being made available to you who operate on the local level. These new staff members have been added specifically to render such assistance to you. Make use of their service.

In spite of the progress made, a disturbing note has crept into the picture. At various places throughout our country, attacks have been made upon the civil defense program. Their reasons seem varied. We must be alert to these attacks. We must offer prompt and able replies to those who criticize this program and in so doing adversely affect our national defense structure. Although the critics of civil defense are most articulate, in my opinion, they represent only a small segment of our citizenry. I feel that the bulk of our people are strongly in favor of an effective Civil Defense program. In the days that followed the onset of the Cuban crisis, thousands of people phoned and crowded into our civil defense offices. If they had not been convinced that the program offered protection to them and their families, they would not have taken such action. We know now that this emergency has passed and interest has waned. Nonetheless, our responsibility as leaders still exists, and we must continue our preparedness measures. In these days of the cold war, we can never know when the next crisis will occur.

We must reach into civil organizations, parent-teacher organizations, church groups, and yes, anywhere that people gather and meet. We must tell them the story of civil defense — tell it in simple layman's language so that they can grasp the real significance of our work. Ignorance of the civil defense program breeds misinformation and misconceptions which ultimately lead either to attacks on the